



# ROOTS & BRANCHES

APRIL 2022

RAISE  
AN  
ECO  
PALM  
BRANCH  
ON  
PALM  
SUNDAY.



A mother hen. A parent who welcomes home a prodigal son. A hopeful farmer who tends to an un-producing fig tree with care. Precious oil poured out extravagantly and tenderly. Stones crying out with praise. These are the images from scripture that have filled our imaginations during worship throughout the season of Lent – stories full of grace and brimming with a life that God dreams for God’s people.

It’s hard to believe it but we are already one-quarter of the way through the year. We are also beginning a third year of living with COVID. Each month, I keep a calendar that invites some reflection and intention. At the top of the “first quarter,” I wrote the words, “Beginning Again.” As I reflect on the life of our church over these three months, that intention has certainly come true: our Council has met twice in person (something we haven’t done since 2019); we’ve shared two community meals together; Wednesday Bible study is back at it; youth group is getting off the ground again; plans and fundraisers are being held as we look toward summer; our First Quarter Retreat was a great success, and there have been beautiful surprises too! A group of refugees are learning English every Friday morning in our fellowship hall.

In many ways, it does feel like we are on the other side of a pandemic, even though COVID has not gone away. Many parts of our lives are “beginning again.” Many parts of our communal life together are “beginning again.” This month, as we make our way closer to Jerusalem and ritualize the events that are foundational to our faith (Jesus’ last meal with the

disciples, his death on a cross, and the resurrection), I am particular drawn to the scene in Bethany. If I could linger somewhere for a moment, I would linger here.

Martha is serving. Lazarus is at the table with Jesus. Mary is knelt on the floor – lavishly pouring out a jar of expensive nard to anoint Jesus’ feet and then wipe them with her hair. And then there’s Judas – critiquing, criticizing and questioning her actions. Mary is undeterred. Unwavering. Her devotion is rooted deeply in love and devotion to the One whom she knows will soon pour out his own life out of love for the world.

In this season of “beginning again,” as we find our calendars filling up, various things demanding our attention and energy, I’m wondering if we could linger here in the home of Bethany for a moment? Yes, we are called to crack open ourselves and pour ourselves out, but let us do so because we have first centered our eyes, our ears, our being on the Christ in our midst. May our starting place be a deep dwelling in the life of Jesus so that we can also follow in his footsteps and live lives of generosity, compassion, and love. We will have many opportunities this month to dwell in the presence of the One who saves us, and I consider it great joy to be in prayer, to be around the table, to be knelt in service alongside each of you. In the days to come, may you be blessed, and may you be a blessing.

Shalom,

Laura

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

<i>2022 Unified Budget</i>	<b>335,441.48</b>
<i>YTD Total Income to Operating Fund</i>	<b>69,397.77</b>
<i>YTD Operating Expenses</i>	<b>70,561.87</b>
<i>YTD Operating Fund Balance</i>	<b>-1,164.10</b>
<i>2021 Operating Fund Balance Forward</i>	<b>26,386.05</b>
<i>2022 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance</i>	<b>25,221.95</b>
<i>Current Building Mortgage Balance</i>	<b>181,246.12</b>

## WIFI CONNECTIONS

Upstairs:  
 TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA40  
 TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA39  
*more distance/slower connection*  
 TP-Link 5Ghz – 80BA39  
*less distance/faster connection*  
 Downstairs:  
 MySpectrumWifi76- 2G  
 MySpectrumWifi76- 5G  
 Password - unionepic548

## WELCOME!



### Joanna Snow Wright

Daughter of Perry & Katie Wright and little sister to Walden. She was born on March 12, weighing 7lbs & 4oz.

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAY’S 10:30 AM: IN PERSON / [LIVE STREAM](#)



### Maundy Thursday Pot Luck – 4/14 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday is the day we remember the last time Jesus ate with friends and his mandate to "love one another." Join us at 6:30 pm for a potluck-style meal, scripture reading, prayer, fellowship, and ancient tradition. You are invited! Bring a dish to share – or just bring yourself!

### Good Friday – 4/15 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel

On this day, we commemorate Jesus’ arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. Join us in the chapel for a Service of the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross.

### Holy Saturday 4/16

The day between the crucifixion and the resurrection, often called “the great Silence,” when the silence of the tomb and deep grief settles in. There are no scheduled services on this day, though you may want to observe it with a prayer or a time of silence in your own home or on the church grounds.

### Easter Sunday 4/17

Sunrise service outside at 6:30 am, Breakfast immediately following the service. Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30

### EASTER LILIES

Purchase Easter Lilies for the sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one. Sign up in the Narthex by April 10th.



### A WORSHIP NEED:

Many of us enjoy the [Live Stream](#) worship each week and we are so grateful for Mike Quinn and Wayne Leonard who so faithfully provide this service. However, we need a few extra hands to help! Our goal is to build our volunteer base in order to sustain this area of ministry. If you (or someone you know) if fairly comfortable with technology and would be willing to be trained, please contact Pastor Laura, Mike, or Wayne.

## EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP



### Mother's Day Tea Party Celebration!

All are invited to celebrate mom and family after Worship service on May 1<sup>st</sup>! Simply Steeped Tea will host a celebration tea of mom's all over the world. Praise God for the gift to go and serve. All proceeds will go to the El Salvador mission fund.

Our tea is \$20 per person.

Menu: Sandwiches, heavy hors d'oeuvres, Sweets.

Please RSVP to Kathryn at [katjoy4all@gmail.com](mailto:katjoy4all@gmail.com) and buy your tickets in the Narthex on April 17 or April 24 after worship.

For our tea, we are accepting donations of finger foods, such as: Mini quiches, small sandwiches, small desserts, fruits & veggies. We appreciate all that any can donate for our Mother's day tea.

### Fill a cup and support El Salvador!

Take a coffee cup from the Narthex and fill it with the money you would spend on coffee each day to save for families in need.

### Pleasant Green Community Center Update:

PGCC is currently keeping busy with rentals. As you know, Covid kept us closed for business for over a year. Covid also came along right after some major improvements were completed and paid for—new windows, siding repairs, water and sewer improvements—to list a few. Our operating fund was very low with zero rentals. Some expenses still had to be paid—electricity, gas, and insurance, other fees. While we barely had funds to make it, some friends of PGCC stepped up with donations to help out. To those who helped, PGCC sends thanks.

## CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY



The United Methodist Women, Dream Weaver Circle is excited to announce the **2022 Spring Market, benefiting The Steven Collins Children's Music Ministry** at PGUMC.

Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to benefit this very special music program for children, so we hope you'll plan to join us in this fun-filled day!

We need vendors! We're looking to create a unique shopping experience and feature our local artists, crafters, makers, growers and musicians. We also need baked good donations!

Spread the word! Help us make this year's Spring Market a success by inviting friends and family to join us in the gift of music, fellowship and fun.

Email [pgumc@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:pgumc@ncrrbiz.com) for more information and vendor registration forms!

Let us share the word of God through music with Children.

Since rentals have picked up again, the bank account is once again healthy and minor repairs are being completed. It is an old building, so weather, time, and animals continue to "make their mark". Phil Ray, PGCC president, keeps on top of conditions that need attention. If you are interested in renting PGCC for an event, you can review the online calendar for availability, or call PGCC rental agents Phil Ray, (919-493-1780) or Tim Fowler, (919-383-7728). It is a popular space to rent—reserve early!

Thanks again for your support of this historic community treasure. Sincerely, Sandy Quinn, PGCC Treasurer.

## ACOLYTES, BACK FOR LENT!

Thanks to Caedmon & Abbie Bowlin!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Children's Church teachers & Greeter & Acolytes are needed on Sunday mornings! Sign up online [HERE](#) or in the Narthex!



### 2022 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20-24. Register here!

VBS Participants: <https://bit.ly/PGVBS22>

VBS Volunteers: <https://bit.ly/PGVBSVOL22>

Check out the VBS Website [HERE!](#)

Wendy Anderson: 919.630.1939 or [wena@nc.rr.com](mailto:wena@nc.rr.com).

### 2022 SUMMER CAMP at PGUMC

June 20 - 24, Week 1: VBS

June 27 - 30, Week 2: Monday – Thursday only

July 11 - 15, Week 3: Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp

July 18 - 22, Week 4

Summer Camp Registration link:

<https://bit.ly/PGsummercamp>



April 3: (2:45-6 pm) **Rise against Hunger Event**  
Meet at the church at 2:45 and travel together to cedar grove to participate in a meal packing program. We will return to the church at 5 for dinner and fellowship.

April 10: (3:45-7 pm) **Spring Forest**  
We will be traveling to the Church at Spring Forest to do some work on the farm and to see the goats! We will depart at 3:45, go to the farm until 6 and then travel somewhere for dinner. We will return to the church at 7.

April 17: **Easter Sunday– Easter egg hunt**  
The youth will need to be there to help set up for an easter egg hunt between breakfast and service.

### GLOBAL FRIENDS ESL PROGRAM

Friday morning classes at PGUMC  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Volunteers needed to Set-up/Cleanup Church area, Transport families to/from Pleasant Green, Provide Snacks, Assist with Childcare and ESL classes.

Volunteer Registration Form: [bit.ly/GFESLvol](https://bit.ly/GFESLvol)

The Global Friends ESL program is a collaborative effort of The Church at Spring Forest, Durham Home Church Network, and Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. We work in partnership with World Relief. Our certified ESL teachers and program volunteers are passionate about welcoming our newest global neighbors and supporting English language acquisition as a major part of companioning refugees in rebuilding their lives here in the United States. We welcome all people without discrimination, based on race, gender, religion, or sexuality. While the Global Friends ESL program is grounded in the Christian practice of hospitality, we are ecumenical and do not proselytize volunteers or students. Contact: Wendy Anderson: 919.630.1939 / [wena@nc.rr.com](mailto:wena@nc.rr.com).

April 24: (4-6 pm) **Youth & Parents** meeting to follow at 5 pm with dinner.

April 29- 30: **30 Hour Famine Lock In**  
Fundraising: Our goal is \$2500. If we have 10 youth ask 5 people for \$50 then we'll have hit our goal! Youth received a fundraising sheet on Sunday and there are more available at the church. The top three sellers will receive a gift card of their choice. 1st place gets \$30, 2nd, \$20, and 3rd \$10. The Saturday of our famine the youth will be sponsoring a car wash at the church from 9 am-12 pm.

Forms: Please fill out the consent form and return to Emily with an emergency contact name & number.

Cardboard: The youth will be making houses to sleep in out of cardboard. If you have any cardboard please drop it at the church in the youth office.



**Join us for the Cantata on Sunday, April 10th**

Jesus' extraordinary love for others characterized His life and ministry. "Amazing Love!" walks us down the road to the cross, recounting the final hours of Christ's life.

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> WORSHIP 10:30 AM YOUTH 2:45-6 pm Rise Against Hunger Event (pg. 5)  <i>Christopher Martin</i>		<b>4</b>		<b>5</b> READ & SEED 6:30 pm, Zoom (pg. 8) MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 6 pm		<b>6</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:30 am CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30 pm Sanctuary  <i>Davis Whitfield</i>		<b>7</b> <b>PANDEMIC CAFÉ</b> Apr 7 Walnut Grove UMC 7pm  <i>Laura Cox</i>		<b>1</b>  <i>Chris Best Tyler Johnson Jack Mattocks Jody Moore</i>	<b>2</b> CHOIR REHEARSAL 10 am For Cantata  <i>Kevin Punt Laura Bullock Finley Christian Overaker</i>
<b>Palm Sunday 10</b> WORSHIP & CANTATA 10:30 am YOUTH 3:45-7 pm Spring Forest (pg. 5)  <i>Kevin Nicholson Jo Anna Walker Brown</i>		<b>11</b> UMW BOOK CLUB 6 pm, Zoom (pg. 8) PRAISE BAND PRACTICE 7:15  <i>Julia Morris Marsha Phillips</i>		<b>12</b>		<b>13</b> BIBLE STUDY 10:30 am CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30 pm Sanctuary		<b>14</b> MAUNDY THURSDAY POTLUCK 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall (pg. 3)  <i>Kim Berini</i>		<b>15</b> <b>Good Friday</b> GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 pm Chapel (pg.3)  <i>Katy Johnson Larry Morris</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>Easter Sunday 17</b> EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 6:30 am Breakfast following the service WORSHIP 10:30 AM No Youth Meeting  <i>Tim Shelton</i>		<b>18</b> ELEANOR WALKER CIRCLE 7 pm PRAISE BAND PRACTICE 7:15  <i>Tim Shelton</i>		<b>19</b>		<b>20</b> PRAYER MINISTRY 6:30 pm (pg. 11)  <i>Lisa Best</i>		<b>21</b> CIRCLE OF FAITH 6:30 pm		<b>22</b>  <i>Wendy Gooch Beth Whitfield</i>	<b>23</b> COMMON THREAD 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall
<b>24</b> PRAISE BAND SUNDAY & WORSHIP 10:30 AM YOUTH 4-6 pm Youth & Parents meeting at 5 pm and dinner  <i>Sara Collins Clark</i>		<b>25</b>  <i>Stephen Bass Lori Link Sollenberger</i>		<b>26</b>  <i>Luke Jacks Vikki Sutton</i>		<b>27</b> CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30 pm Choir Room		<b>28</b>  <i>Laura Thompson</i>		<b>29</b>  <i>Aaron Carlyle</i>	<b>30</b> YOUTH, 30 HOUR FAMINE- LOCK-IN & CAR WASH  <i>Will Walker Maria Bowlin Thomas Huffman</i>



**THE GARDEN AT SPRING FOREST**  
**2022 CSA Season is May 17 – October 25!**

Support Local Agriculture! Check out the website and signup! [www.springforest.org](http://www.springforest.org)

Get 20 weeks of healthy, all natural produce over a 24-week period. Foods are non GMO and are free of pesticides, herbicides, artificial hormones and other atrocities. Choose from a full share, small share or bi-weekly share for the season. Perfect for those who like to cook and prepare ahead!

Pick up in Hillsborough (1907 New Sharon Church Road) or ask Nancy Maloney to drop your box off at PGUMC on Tuesdays. 603.370.2477. More information is available in the Narthex!

**MENTAL HEALTH CORNER**



From Greenbrook TMS NeuroHealth Centers:  
<https://www.greenbrooktms.com/2022-mental-health-awareness-calendar>



**READ & SEED**

April read: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins.

Meeting Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

Zoom here: <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/99801109814>. Contact Cindy at [fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com](mailto:fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com) for questions.

April is National Poetry month. Bring a favorite poem or sampling from your favorite poet to share with the group!

Terri offers up these books for consideration for food books (maybe for July or September): *Number One Chinese Restaurant* by Lillian Li, *The Last Days of Cafe Leila* by Donia Bijan, *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan and *The Secret French Recipes of Sophie Valroux* by Samantha Verant. Here is a link to The Book Page which gives you a summary about each book (flip to page 5). [https://issuu.com/book\\_page/docs/o322\\_bookpage](https://issuu.com/book_page/docs/o322_bookpage)

**UMW BOOK CLUB**

We are excited about our new Book Club! The Club will read books from the Reading Program List and will meet on the second Monday of each month from 7-8 pm. See the book choices for the upcoming discussions below.

- April 11-*Love is the Way* by Bishop Michael Curry
- May 9-*The House on Lowell Street* by Linda A. Keane
- June 13-*Girl Gone Missing* by Marcie R. Rendon

The book discussions will be facilitated by Jeanne Murray. Jeanne is a wonderful United Methodist Woman, a Lay Speaker and a retired English teacher. To receive the ZOOM link for the discussions, please send an email to [NCCUMW.Webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:NCCUMW.Webmaster@gmail.com).



**UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF**

The NCUMC Conference has two separate advance special numbers for giving to Ukraine. One is for refugees who have fled outside the Ukraine (982450). The other is for aid inside the Ukraine (14063A). Givers choose where their money should go.

Please make checks payable to PGUMC with # or Ukraine refugees / Ukraine aid on memo line.



**FAITH IN HILLSBOROUGH** is a collective of congregations in the Hillsborough area that come together to purchase materials and recruit volunteers to build a Habitat home for a low-income family.

**WHY VOLUNTEER?** Habitat offers homeownership to Orange County families who otherwise may not have the opportunity to own a home of their own. Volunteering with Habitat is flexible and fun and gives you the opportunity directly impact these families lives.

Volunteer sessions are available seven Saturdays April-June. Available shifts are 8am-12pm and/or 1pm-4pm. See the link below for dates.

Sign up here: <http://vhub.at/faithinhillsborough>

**Meet the Spring 2022 Partner Family!**

Annah Nyarangi is a permanent resident from Kenya, Africa and is the single parent to 10-year old Tyler. The family currently lives in a one-bedroom apartment and will be upgrading to a 3-bedroom home once construction is complete. Tyler is looking forward to having his own bedroom for the first time and has already picked out the biggest one.

An incredibly hard worker, Anna is a full-time CNA at UNC Health, full-time student, and full-time Mom. She is working towards her goal of becoming a doctor and delivering babies.

Annah did not learn about the possibility of applying for Habitat homeownership until she started volunteering on site to help others. Now she is excited about turning her dream of becoming a Chapel Hill Homeowner into a reality. She is money savvy and ready to start saving.



Fair trade provides opportunities for churches to support a system that nurtures rather than diminishes God's vision of abundant life. UMCOR's partner is the employee owned fair trade organization called Equal Exchange. *For sale in the Parlor*

**12 oz Ground Coffee Bags, \$8**

*Mind Body Soul Regular*

**Organic Chocolate bars, \$2.50**

- Dark Chocolate Almond & sea salt (55%)*
- Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt*
- Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch (67%)*
- Panama Extra Dark Chocolate (80%)*
- Dark Chocolate Orange (65%)*
- Very Dark Chocolate (71%)*
- Milk Chocolate*
- Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt*
- Chocolate with Coconut Milk (55%)*

**FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD**

*Donations collected in the Narthex*

New twin/full comforters, New pillows, Pine Sol, Dish soap, Toilet paper, Paper towels



**NC DIAPER BANK**

On Saturday, March 19, Kathy DuLaney delivered the diapers, baby wipes, and feminine products we collected for the Diaper Bank of North Carolina. While there, she participated in the Corridor District UMW Mission Encounter. She and nine other women repackaged approximately 7200 diapers in an hour and a half. More information about the Diaper Bank is available at [ncdiaperbank.org](http://ncdiaperbank.org).





*The El Salvador Mission Team appreciates your generosity! The Chicken & Dumplings sale was a success and Pancake Dinner Fundraiser served more than 60 people before Ash Wednesday Service.*

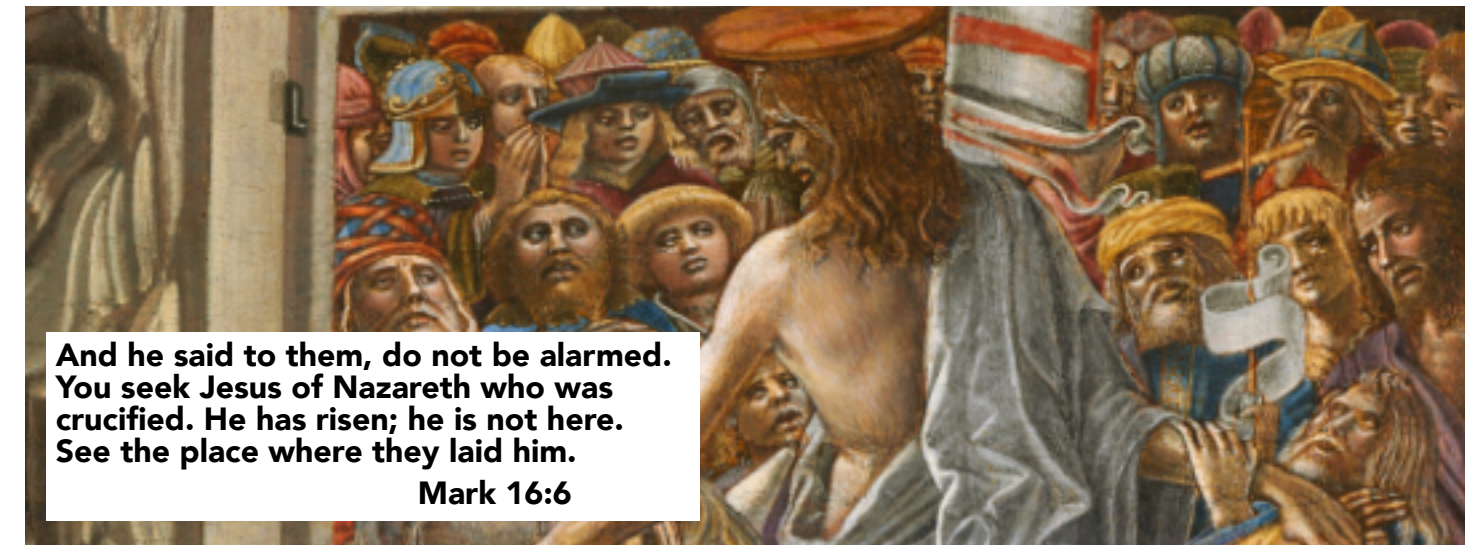


*The Afterschool children made doves using olive leaves Kathryn Dempsey brought back from her recent trip to Israel.*



*Thank you to the donors and volunteers for the March Blood Drive.*

**Conspiracy, Intrigue, and Conflict; Changing to Hope and Life**



**And he said to them, do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.  
Mark 16:6**

**Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute? They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.**

**Psalm 94:20-21**

People were meeting in small groups, whispering, or hiding behind closed doors as they planned and plotted. Factions of citizens were against each other; especially the religious rulers and elites disagreeing with common citizens. Leaders felt threatened by people challenging their authority. Is this in the United States? Russia versus Ukraine? Perhaps, but it was also during Jesus' time. Some religious leaders conspired with Judas to betray Jesus. Following Jesus' arrest, he faced six trials, most in the middle of the night. These trials were orchestrated by members of the Sanhedrin, a group of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders, who functioned similarly as our Supreme Court today. They had final decision-making authority, except in cases of capital punishment. That is where Pontius Pilate, a Roman Governor of the region came in. He had to rule on the recommendation of the Sanhedrin. In Jesus' case, Pontius Pilate followed the will of the citizens, who had been stirred up by members of the Sanhedrin to condemn Jesus to death. As we all know, Jesus was crucified, put to death on a tree in the shape of a cross, even though he was innocent of the charges against him: blasphemy (showing contempt for God) and treason against the Roman Government. But that is not the end of the story.

Contrast the above with the abundant and warming love, peace, and calm of Jesus' resurrection. As we know, God, our Father, resurrected Jesus! He does not stay dead. All the prophecies of Jesus and prophets from the Old Testament, are fulfilled. With Jesus resurrection, comes the most amazing promises of hope for an eternal life and promises that Jesus will be with us always. Following a King like Jesus Christ, who is 100% love, compassion, and wisdom, relieves us, no matter what is happening in the world. We can trust him more than we trust anyone else. He is always truthful. He fulfills his promises and prophecies. He knows what is best for us. He loves us so much that he was willing to suffer and die for us. Who else would do that? Who else does that today? Only Jesus!

*Let us pray:* God of the past, God of our present, God of our future. We thank you and praise you that you have given us your Son, who loves us so much that he suffered and died for us. During these troubled times, help us remember that your Son, Jesus Christ, loves us and wants the best for us. By conquering death, He lives! He is with us! He is our Savior! He makes good out of bad! Help us to remember to lean on Him and trust Him; for there is no other. In His name we pray, Amen.

*The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in person or by free telephone conference. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 20th at 6:30 pm. You may also contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com. Please join us! We would love to share God's love with you as we pray for others.*



PleasantGreenUMC.org | pgumc@ncrrbiz.com | 919.383.5764

**Pastor**

*Rev. Laura Thompson*  
*lthompson@nccumc.org*  
*919.383.2339*

**Duke Intern**

*Emily Robbian*  
*emily.robbian@duke.edu*

**Ways to give**

We know and believe that part of being a follower of Christ is being generous with our money. We also recognize that the world is changing, the church is changing, and giving trends are changing with new generations. Thank you for your generosity!

**Online** *www.PleasantGreenUMC.org*

**Smartphone** *Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977*

**Envelope** *Mail or slip under office door*

**Amazon Smile** Support PGUMC when you purchase through amazon smile. They donate 0.5% of your purchase price on eligible items to the "Pleasant Green United Methodist Church" charitable organization. We hope you'll consider this as we continue to find creative and generous ways to share resources together. Already have an Amazon Prime account?

Go to smile.amazon.com and use your existing login.  
Pleasant Green's unique charity link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1152936>

PLEASE RECYCLE

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive**  
*at PGUMC*



To sign up, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

**\*\*NOTICE: 2022 PINESTRAW SALE CANCELLATION\*\***

Our supplier is unable to provide pinestraw this year due to a manpower shortage that has severely impacted his ability to harvest & bale the pinestraw. We regret any inconvenience this may cause, but it is a matter beyond our control. The UMM thank all of our customers for their support and hope that we will be able to have this fundraiser again next year.

*PG United Methodist Men*